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EAST ASHFORD RURAL DISTRICT, KENT

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ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1958

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EAST ASHFORD (KENT) RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer
of Health and Public Health Inspector
for the Year, 1958

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year, 1958.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 10,570 - an increase of 30 over that of the previous year.

Live Births and Rate

The number of live-births was 144 - an increase of nine over the previous year, and the crude birthrate was accordingly 13.62; when this is adjusted by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor which is computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution, the rate becomes 15.12 which is lower than that of 16.4 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths and Rate

The number of stillbirths was 3 (2 M, 1F) and the rate was accordingly 20.41 which approximates to that of 21.6 for England and Wales. Assiduous ante-natal supervision and obstetric skill are the essential requirements for the prevention of avoidable stillbirths.

Infant Deaths and Infantile Death Rate

There was also one neo-natal (five days from birth) infant death due to (i) Broncho-pneumonia and (ii) Secondary Atalectasis. The infantile mortality rate was accordingly 6.94 which compares very favourably with that of 22.5 for England and Wales.

Maternal Deaths and Maternal Mortality Rate

This rate was nil, as there were no deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion.

Total Deaths and Rate

The total number of deaths from all causes was 133 (65 M, 68 F) and the crude death-rate was accordingly 12.58; adjusted by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, as for births, the rate becomes 10.32 and was lower than that of 11.7 for England and Wales.

As in previous years, the chief cause of deaths was Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System, which are the natural terminal causes of death amongst the majority of the aged. Altogether there were 68 of these deaths.

Disease of the Coronary Artery of the Heart caused ten deaths, all of whom were males. The ages at death were from 57, 61, 63 years and upwards. It is thought that prolonged mental tension, excessive fat intake and excessive smoking are pre-disposing factors but the predominating cause is still obscure.

Also as in previous years, the second chief cause of deaths was Cancer, the total number having been 24. If the diagnosis is established reasonably early modern treatment is very efficacious. Procrastination by the patients who are often senile, allied with the insidious nature of the disease, is the most common factor related to late diagnosis.

Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus caused four deaths, three male, 1 female. The ages at death were 57, 62, 71 and 89 years. The ratio of deaths is always greater in men than in women, and may be related to the fact that more men smoke than women and commonly more excessively.

Cancer of the Breast caused five deaths. Although the breast is one of the most accessible sites of the body from the aspects of diagnosis and treatment, the number of deaths is still comparatively high.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there was no unusual mortality.

Infectious Diseases

Very few Infectious Diseases occurred throughout the District during the year and none was of serious importance.

Measles

Only eight cases were notified. Measles is an unavoidable infection amongst children particularly throughout classrooms but fortunately the virus is not by itself dangerous; secondary Broncho-pneumonia occurs in less than 0.1% of children, but usually responds well to Antibiotic treatment unless the illness is too far advanced, particularly in infants. Occasionally Otitis Media is a complication to be considered.

Gamma Globulin can be obtained from the Public Health Laboratory at Preston Hall and is occasionally used to protect, by passive immunity, children who are suffering from another illness and who have been exposed to infection.

Whooping Cough

Only six cases of this distressing illness to children were notified. It is rather early yet to assess the effect of vaccination by the modern vaccines now available at the Child Welfare Centres, as well as through the family Doctor but there are indications that they may already be inducing protection in those inoculated.

Scarlet Fever

Four sporadic cases of this disease were notified. This illness in its present phase is relatively mild and the majority of uncomplicated cases are treated at home.

There is evidence, however, that the types of Haemolytic Streptococci which cause sore-throat with exudate but without the appearance of a rash, are becoming more prevalent and occasionally Acute Nephritis with Albuminuria is a concomitant complication.

Food Poisoning

One case of this illness due to Salmonella Reading, was notified, but it was not possible to trace the source of infection.

Acute Primary Pneumonia

Only one case of this disease was notified.

Including the secondary Pneumonias, there was a total of nine deaths, most of which were amongst the aged who do not respond well to treatment, many having associated Hypostatic Pneumonia.

No other notifiable Infectious Diseases occurred in the District during the year.

Tuberculosis

Five new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified (see table), and one case of Non-Respiratory (Renal) Tuberculosis.

Also two deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis were registered, but none from Non-Respiratory or Bovine Tuberculosis.

Modern measures of prevention, control and treatment against this disease have reached an advanced degree.

For example, the District has been decreed a specified area by the Ministry, in which only designated or Tubercle-free milk may be sold.

The number of new cases is being reduced each year, and in this respect improved facilities for diagnosis and treatment in Hospitals have been effected; for example, there is no waiting list now for admission to Sanatoria. Also, the Mass Radiography Units are playing a valuable part in the detection of unsuspected cases who would otherwise become open sources of infection to others.

B.C.G. vaccination is being offered to school-children before school-leaving age, as adolescence is a very vulnerable age-group.

Many social measures such as the closure or demolition of houses unfit for human habitation with the relief of overcrowding and the improving standards of living and nutrition, have all made a strong impact against the spread of the disease, and it is hoped that it will be finally eradicated in the foreseeable future.

In conclusion, I would wish to take this opportunity of thanking you for your interest and assistance in the work of the Public Health Services and also the staff for their co-operation and efficiency.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Central Public Health Office,
1, Elwick Road,
Ashford, Kent.

Tel: No: Ashford 1485

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

FOR 1958

Area:-	51,398 acres	
Registrar-General's Estimate of:- The Resident Population	... ...	10,570
Number of Inhabited Houses According to the Rate Books	... ...	3,734
Rateable Value:-	... ...	£95,000
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	... ...	£380

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

East Ashford Rural District is predominantly agricultural in character - there are few light industries. The Council has been progressive in building 100 pre-war and 425 post-war Traditional Houses, and generally social conditions are very satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	M.	F.		East Ashford Rural District	England and Wales
1.	Live Births	144	57	87	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	13.62 (Adjusted 15.12)	16.4
	(a) Legitimate	139	54	85			
	(b) Illegitimate	5	3	2			
2.	Stillbirths	3	2	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	20.41	21.6
	(a) Legitimate	3	2	1			
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
3.	Total live and still-births	-	-	-			
4.	Deaths	133	65	68	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	12.58 (Adjusted rate 10.32)	11.7
5.	Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion.	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	-	Not available
6.	Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age	1	-	1	Rate per 1,000 live births	6.94	22.5
	(a) Legitimate	1	-	1	Rate per 1,000 live births (legitimate)	7.19	
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 live births (illegitimate)	-	
7.	Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks of Age	1	-	1	Rate per 1,000 live births	6.94	
	(a) Legitimate	1	-	1			
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
8.	Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births					3.47%	
9.	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					24	
	Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					-	
	Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea					1	
	Deaths from Measles					-	

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year.

Whooping Cough	6
Measles	8
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia ...	1
Scarlet Fever	4
Food Poisoning	1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN EAST ASHFORD RURAL DISTRICT DURING 1958

ALL CAUSES	Males	Females
	65	68
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	8
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	16
18. Coronary disease, angina	10	-
19. Hypertentions with heart disease	2	2
20. Other heart disease	7	17
21. Other circulatory disease	3	4
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	7	2
24. Bronchitis	8	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	2
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	-
34. All other accidents	-	2
35. Suicide	1	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality 1958

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths				Total cases on register			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	27	10	8
1 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
5 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
15 ...	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-				
25 ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-				
35 ...	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-				
45 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
55 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-				
Total	2	3	-	1	-	2	-	-				

There were no deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis of patients who had not been notified as suffering from that disease.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Diphtheria Immunisation, Whooping Cough Immunisation and Smallpox Vaccination figures for 1958 based on record cards

Year of Birth	Diphtheria Immunisation		Smallpox Vaccination		Whooping-cough Immunisation
	Primary	Reinforcing	Primary	Revaccination	Primary
1958	28	-	26	-	39
1957	73	3	35	-	51
1956	10	-	2	-	5
1955	2	-	1	-	5
1954	-	2	-	1	-
1953	2	34	-	2	4
1952	-	11	-	-	1
1951	1	4	-	-	-
1950	-	1	-	-	-
1949	-	1	-	-	-
1948	-	2	-	-	-
1947	-	-	-	-	-
1946	-	-	-	-	-
1945	-	-	-	-	-
1944	1	-	-	-	-
Before 1944	-	-	3	16	-
Total	117	58	67	19	105

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, 1958

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1958, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1944).

Year of Birth	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether Primary or Booster) 1954 - 1958	54	37	46	48	52	91	96	99	85	110	112	110	98	82	28	1,148
1953 or earlier	71	94	89	110	79	43	33	53	43	7	-	-	-	-	-	622

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION, 1958

The following table gives the numbers of persons resident in the district who received injections against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1958.

Year of Birth	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	Others	Total
Given two injections	4	69	114	100	85	86	91	54	44	53	49	43	143	99	125	138	606
Given third injection	-	4	7	5	11	11	8	2	19	12	12	12	2	3	-	1	105

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1. Water Supply

The Mid-Kent Water Company supplies most of the District; subsidiary supplies to a few Parishes are obtained from the Ashford Urban District Council's undertaking and from the Folkestone and District Water Company.

A network of water mains has been provided in every Parish and approximately 92% of the total number of dwelling houses have a supply from the mains. 70 houses, including new houses were connected to existing water mains during the year.

An extension of water mains to the Bockham area of Brabourne and Mersham is under consideration and the number of houses that will benefit is ten. The cost is estimated at £3,636.

Monthly bacteriological and quarterly chemical raw water samples from the sources of supply are taken by these three Undertakings and throughout the year, all the samples were satisfactory. Regular samples are also taken of the chloriated supplies at the periphery by the Public Health Inspector - these too were all satisfactory.

The following table gives the number of houses in each Parish supplied by the three Undertakings.

Parish	No. of dwelling houses	No. of houses connected with:-		
		Mid-Kent Water Co's. Mains	Ashford Urban Supply	Folkestone Water Co.
Aldington	282	249		
Bilsington	103	94		
Bonnington	38	37		
Boughton Aluph	222	217		
Brabourne	265	228		
Brook	83	86		
Challock	121	111		
Chilham	471	433		
Crundale	63	57		
Eastwell	40	24		
Godmersham	103	111		
Hastingleigh	74	70		
Hinxhill	18		18	
Mersham	278	253		
Molash	77	70		
Orlestone	208	196		
Ruckinge	231	194		
Sevington	63	10	43	
Smeeth	229	209		13
Warehorne	120	110		
Wye	645	599	11	
Totals	3,734	3,361	72	13

2. Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

No alterations, extension or improvements to sewerage systems or purification works were carried out during the year, 1958. A scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for the village of Chilham has been submitted to the Ministry also schemes for new disposal works for the villages of Wye and Hamstreet.

Emptying of Cesspools

The emptying of cesspools in all parts of the district is undertaken by the Council twice yearly on written request being made by householders. During the year 1958, the number emptied was 1,524. This work is carried out by contract and the cost was £2,025.

Emptying of Pail-closets

There are still a considerable number of houses in the area with this primitive method of sanitation. The emptying of these pail-closets is carried out in the parish of Boughton Aluph and part of the parish of Chilham. In the parish of Boughton Aluph the emptying takes place once weekly, by contract, and the number to be emptied is approximately 54. In the parish of Chilham the emptying is carried out twice weekly in an area covering The Square, The Street and the Railway Station and the number to be emptied is approximately 25.

3. Housing

No houses were erected by the Council during the year but 34 were built by private enterprise. Since the war period 425 traditional houses have been erected by the Council and 209 by private enterprise.

(a)

Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts	43
Number of houses found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation	12
Number of houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense	5
Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied by informal action	7
Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	-
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	-
Number of houses demolished	2
Number of houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 ...	-
Number of dwelling houses reconditioned and undertakings cancelled	-

(b) Improvements and Conversions - Grants

During the year 1958 shcemes in respect of the improvement of 17 dwelling houses were approved by the Council. The total cost of works ascribable to qualifying improvements was £6,568 and the amount agreed to be paid as Improvement Grants was £3,746.

4. Refuse Collection and Disposal

The collection of house refuse is undertaken by direct labour with a Dennis 15 cubic rear loading barrier type covered refuse vehicle having a separate salvage compartment. Three driver/loaders are employed on this work.

The major part of the district is covered by a fortnightly collection with a weekly collection in the town area of Wye and a four-weekly collection in certain scattered and less populated areas.

Four refuse tips are in use for the disposal of house refuse, the first being near Drylands Farm, Molash, the second at White Hill, Boughton Aluph, the third at the Kent County Quarry, Aldington, and the fourth at Granary Court Road, Smeeth. Two of these refuse tips consist of large disused chalk pits, one the disused part of a rock quarry and the fourth is a very large disused sandpit.

5. Salvage

During the year, 145 tons 17 cwts. of baled waste paper was sold for £1,124 also a quantity of rags and metals valued at £48. The total income from salvage was £1,172

6. Control of Infestation

(a) Rodent Control

402 infestations with rats and mice were dealt with by the Council's part time Rodent Operator. Routine baiting and gassing of rats on the Council's four refuse tips was undertaken and satisfactory results obtained. There are no large scale sources of rat infestation in the district.

(b) Insect Infestation

Nineteen infestations with fleas, ants, cockroaches, flies, wasps, etc., were dealt with. Advice is frequently sought on methods of dealing with these infestations and sprayers and powder blowers with insecticides are loaned on request.

7. Sanitary Inspection of the District

Food Premises

Type	No. on district	No. of inspections	No. of defects found	No. of defects remedied
Egg Packing Stations	1	9	-	-
Wet Fish Shops	1	1	-	-
Cafes	11	5	2	1
Grocers Shops	45	47	9	9
Licenced Premises	36	7	4	2
Bakehouses	2	4	3	3
Dairies	6	3	-	-
Slaughterhouses	4	119	4	4
Butchers Shops	6	30	-	-
Registered Food Premises under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955.				
Ice Cream Retailers	36	42	-	-
Preparation and Manufacturers of Sausages and Preserved Foods etc.	6	30	2	2

Analysis of Nuisances and Defects remedied during the year under Public Health and Housing Acts.

Water Supplies	4
Roofs	8
Walls (external)	14
Chimney stacks	3
Rainwater pipes	12
Gutters	6
Dampness	10
Wall plaster	12
Ceilings	15
Floors	20
Windows	17
Additional lighting	5

Additional ventilation	4
Doors	9
Baths, lavatory basins and sinks	12
Drainage:-	
(a) Reconstructed and new	16
(b) Repaired	4
(c) Cleared	-
Septic tank plant and cesspools repaired	5
Closet accommodation (a) Renewed	19
(b) Repaired	-
Offensive Accumulations	1
Keeping of Animals	3
Offensive Trades	1

Total No. of inspections of all kinds during the year	2,342
No. of premises connected to main sewers	711
No. of premises connected to cesspools or septic tanks	3,023
No. of premises with pail closets	879
No. of premises with earth closets or middens	36
No. of premises not connected to Public Water Supply	288
No. of Statutory Notices served	-
No. of informal Notices served	38
No. of premises disinfected	5

Statutory Notices Served:-
Under the Housing Acts

Notices of Intention to consider the making of Demolition Orders	1
Demolition Orders	-
Notice of Intentions to consider the making of Closing Orders	4
Closing Orders	4
Section 9, Housing Acts, 1936 & 1957 (Repairs)	-

Under the Public Health Act, 1936

Nuisance Abatement Notices	-
Water Supplies (Section 138)	-
	9

Hop Pickers Camps

Owing to the continued introduction of hop picking machinery the number of hop pickers camps in use was reduced during the year from seven to four. The remaining camps are all in the Parish of Chilham and comprise a total of 356 huts. The camps were all inspected before and during occupations by the Public Health Inspector and were maintained in the same favourable condition as in previous years.

Inspections and Supervision of Food

1. Milk

Apart from producer retailers there are only six retail dairies in the district and none for the wholesale handling or distributions of milk. Fourteen Milk Distributors were licensed for the sale of designated milk.

2. Ice Cream

Thirty-six shops and other premises are registered for the sale or storage of Ice Cream. There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream in the district.

3. Liquid Egg

Nine samples of liquid egg were sent for bacteriological examination, all of which were reported as Salmonella negative.

4. Meat

Slaughterhouses

There are four small licensed slaughterhouses in the District, but only three were in regular use and these were visited on 137 occasions for the purpose of meat inspection. All the animals slaughtered were in prime condition and did not include any cows or casualty animals. On twenty occasions small quantities of meat or offals were condemned, the total weight being 183 lbs.

CARCASES OF OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	Not known				
Number inspected	273	-	30	444	376
All diseases except tuberculosis. Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	30	-	-	8	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	10.9%	-	-	1.8%	1.1%
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	6	1	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	37	13	1	-
iii. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
	48	19	2	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
	2	2	-	-	-

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